

THE Hib. 7. 679. 25
EXAMINATIONS
OF

Faithful Communion
DOMINICAN
FRYAR,

AS

Sir *James Ware* had them from the late Lord
PRIMATE *USHER*,

Being One of the

MEMORIALS of the LORD *CECIL*.

Published by *ROB. WARE*, Esq;

Printed in the Year, M. DC. LXXIX.

()
To the Reader.

The Demor-
strance of a
Nonconfor-
mist.

A Caution
to the
Church of
England.

The Advan-
tages that
Rome gets
by Prote-
stants not
being united
and confor-
mable.

Romes Ma-
lice to the
Church of
England e-
ven from its
first Rise--

THe Impostors that dayly appear in the Mode of precise or Nonconformist Preachers, will not seem strange to those that shall consider the Story here presented, (collected by my Dear Father out of Primate Ushers Manuscripts;) and how the grand Enemies of the Reformed Religion (comprised under the Name of Protestancy) do not care in what way they attack it, so that they can but destroy or disgrace it.

Therefore all good Protestants have need to take warning, that they admit of no Novel Teachers, or such as pretend to New Lights amongst them.

It is a double Advantage that the Pope and the Devil gets by such Instruments, that under the Name of any Sect of Religion, that are contrary to the Church of Rome, can not only debauch the People they communicate with, into the most horrid acts of Impiety, but cover their own Guilt, and cast the shame of them upon others, as was too palpable in that unparalleled Villany in Destroying His late Majesty by Popish Emissaries, in Presbyterian and Independent Guises, and then leaving the Obloquy upon both.

The Antiquity of this Example, set forth in this Faithfull Commin, may inform all good people, that the Malice and Designs of Rome against Truth, that began to shine in the days of that Defender of the Faith, Queen Elizabeth, are near as old as the Reformation it self. And yet the Growth and Progress it hath made since, shews it will never dye, whilst that Apostate Church hath Wealth or Power to support it. Which God of his mercy put a speedy end to, that we may once again enjoy our Liberties, without fear, to the Rejoycing of all well meaning people.

Your Humble Servant

07-1451

R. WARE.

The EXAMINATION
OF
FAITHFULL COMMUN the Dominican **Fryer**,
who pretended to be a Godly Preacher Anno. 1567.

F *Faithfull Commun*, of the Order of Saint *Dominick* Anno, 1567. to all Peoples Imaginations supposed to be a Strict Protestant against the Church of Rome, was brought before Her GRACE our Dread Sovereign Queen Elizabeth, of England France and Ireland Queen, and Her Majesties most Honourable Council on Munday the fifth of April, being accused for sowing of Sedition amongst Her Majesties Faithful Subjects, by the Testimony of *John Clerkson* Chapline to his Grace *Mathew Parker* Arch-bishop of *Ganterbury*; as also by the Testimonies of *Nicholas Draper* and *Mary Dean*, all being Sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, That the said *Faithfull* was an Impostor, Notwithstanding he Preached against Pope *Pius Quintus*, the Pope of Rome.

The Arch-bishops Questions,

Faithfull Commun, what Profession art thou off?

Answer. Of Christs Order.

Q. What Order is that?

A. A Preacher of the Holy Gospel.

Q. What Gospel is that you call the Holy Gospel?

A. The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Q. Under whose power do you Own to hold that Holy Gospel?

A. Under Christ and his Saints.

Q. Do you acknowledg any other power save Christ, to be on Earth?

A. Yes I do.

Q. What power is that?

A. The Holy Catholique Church.

Q. Do you not acknowledg a Defender of the Holy Catholique Faith?

A. God is the only Defender thereof.

The Arch-bishop } Your Gracious Majestie may perceive, that this Man either hath
to Her Majestie, } been instructed what to say, or otherwise he must be by his answers a man of Craft.

The Queen. I suppose so my Lord.

Then *Faithfull Commun*, being commanded to withdraw, Her Grace and the whole Councell Consulted what to do, and how to proceed further in this matter, caused the said *John Clerkson* to come in before the Board.

The Queen. What is your name?

Jo. Clerkson. May it please Your Grace, my name is *John Clerkson*.

The Queen. Were you acquainted with *Faithfull Commun*?

Jo. Clerkson. I was.

The Queen. How long?

Jo. Clerkson. Within this year and more.

The Queen. What have you say against *Faithful Commin*, that he is suspected to be an Impostor.

Jo. Clerkson. Three things.

The Queen. What be they?

Jo. Clerk. Three things, First, let him prove his Ordination since he fell from the *Dominican Order*.

Secondly, why he never cometh to the Prayers of the now Established Church of England; but starteth up and Preacheth to the people not coming into the Church, till the Prayers be finished. Thirdly, let him prove that he ever Received the Sacrament, according to the Church of England, from any of our Orthodox Clergy-men.

Her Grace and the Councell considering of these three things, sent out for the said *Faithful Commin* to come in.

The Arch-Bishop.

Quest. Were you ever Ordained?

An. Yes I was Ordained.

Quest. By whom?

An. By the Cardinal (meaning *Poole*.)

Qu. Had you not other Certificate since under any of the Bishops hands, since the Reformation?

An. Not any.

Qu. Wherefore would you dare to Preach, having not got a Licence or Permission under some of Our Bishops hands; How shall We be Certified that you are not of the *Romish Church*?

An. There are several have heard my Prayers, and my Sermons, and can testify that I have spoken against *Rome* and her *Pope*, as much as any of the Clergy have done since they have fallen from her; I wonder therefore why I should be suspected.

Ar. B. By your answer I perceive *Mr. Commin*, you would have any one Preach, so that he speake but against the *Pope* in his Sermons.

An. Not every one, save he whose Function it is, and he who hath the spirit.

Quest. What spirit is this you mean?

An. The spirit of Grace and Truth.

Quest. But is this spirit that is in you, either the spirit of Grace or Truth, that doth not comply with the Orders of the Church, lately purged and Cleaned from *Sin* and *Idolatry*?

Ans. Therefore I endeavour to make it purer, as far as God permits me.

Quest. How do you endeavour to make the Church purer, when you neither Commune with Her Sacrament, or in Prayer.

Ans. Yes I endeavour it when I pray to God, That He would open the Eyes of Men to see their Errors. & several have joyned with me when I have prayed amongst them, and I have both given, and taken the Body of Christ to those of tender consciences, who have assemblde with me together in the fear of the Lord.

Quest

Q. By your words, you have then a Congregation that follows you?

A. I have.

Q. Of what Parish, and in what Dioceſſes?

A. Neither of any certain Pa-riſh, or in any certain Dioceſſes.

Q. Where then, I pray?

A. Even in the wide World amongſt the Flock of Chriſt, ſcatter'd over the whole Earth.

Q. Your Dioceſſes is very large, Mr. *Commin*.

*Faithfull Commi*n being commanded to withdraw, the other two Witneſſes were called into the Council-Chamber.

The Queen. Mr. *Draper*, what have you to ſay to this *Faithfull Commi*n?

T. Draper, He came to my houſe at the *Maidenhead* in *Maidſtown*, with ſeveral of his Followers, where they beſpoke a Joint of Mutton, and two Hens for a Dinner, hearing that my Profeſſion was a Cook. I ſhewing him a Room, for him and the Company that came with him, perceived ſeveral to come and enquire for this Mr. *Commin*; but by chance going up the ſtairs, I heard one groan and weep, which cauſed me to lift up the Latch, at the fiſt I was ſtartled, and flood in a maze; but enquiring of one of his Followers what ayled the Man, he replied, Do you not ſee that wee be all at Prayers? The Maid wondering where I was, came to ſeek me, and found me amongſt them, and can teſtifie the very ſame.

The Queen. Are you Mr. *Drapers* Maid?

A. Yes, may it pleaſe your Grace.

Q. What is your Name?

A. My Name is *Mary Deane*.

Q. Did you ſee this *Faithfull Commi*n, that was here before Us now, praying to the people.

A. I ſaw him, and I thought he was diſtracted, when I heard him pray; but the people ſaid he was a heavenly man, and that it was Gods Spirit made him weep for the Sins of the World.

Q. How long continued they at Prayers, do you know Mr. *Draper*?

A. May it pleaſe your Grace about two hours, or near that time.

Q. What did they after that they had prayed?

A. Some went from the Houſe, and about ten, or thereabouts, ſtayed to eat what they had beſpoken, and paid me to the utmoſt penny.

The Queen. Call in this *Faithfull Commi*n.

Mr. *Commin*, if you will receive Orders, and become of the Church of *England*, you may; otherwiſe you muſt not be permitted to pray or preach amongſt my Subjects, and though you have, as appears by ſeveral other Witneſſes, preached againſt the Pope; yet have you uſurped over the Power both of State and Church, in doing contrary to the Orders that We, Our Council and Parliament have unanimouſly agreed on by and with the whole Conſent of the Clergy of my Realm.

F. C. A. Give me time to conſider, and to prepare my ſelf, and I ſhall give your Grace a further Answer in a ſhort ſpace.

Q. Is there any will be bound for your Appearance; otherwiſe you muſt be kept cloſe priſoner; for we have other Examinations to take, and queſtions to demand.

F. C. I have three who will answer for my Appearance.

Then

Then came *Richard Bland* Brother to the said *Faithfull* by the Mothers side, and two others, which gave Bond for his Appearance.

April 12. Mr. *Commin* appearing before Her Majesty and the Council, it was put off till the next day, by reason of the *Spanish* Embassadors Appearance before Her Grace, who had that day Audience. But it fell out, that the said *Faithfull* having appeared, according to the Bonds of those who were bound for the said *Faithfulls* Appearance, that this said *Faithfull* gave them all the slip, and never appeared afterwards; so that the Parties being summoned to appear, for to answer the Penalties of the Bond, made this Answer to the whole Council, that the said *Faithfull* appeared, but they were not bound for his second Appearance, by reason they never demanded them to be bound, or gave them any further Charge of him; so these Bonds-men came off and paid nothing.

This *Faithfull Commin* coming before his Followers the same day, told them, that Her Majesty and the Council had quitted him. And that he was warned by God to go beyond Seas, there to instruct the Protestants, and that he would return to his Flock e're long with better success. Saying to the people, that Spiritual Prayers was the chief Testimony of a true Protestant, and that the set Form of Prayer in England was but Mass translated. So after he had prayed an extemporary prayer, he feigned a Crocodile-like weeping before all of his Flock, and took leave of them; saying, that he had not a farthing to support him in his Journey; yet, it being Gods Cause, he intended to undertake it out of Charity; he was certain that the Almighty would raise him up Friends where ever he travelled. Upon this Speech of his, the poor simple people fell most of them a weeping, especially the Women, who moving their Husbands to contribute to this Impostor, who was amongst them esteemed as a Demy-God: so that it appeared upon further enquiry, after he had escaped out of England, that at that present the poor people collected for him, 130 l. over and above what the silly women gave him unknown to their Husbands.

April 13. The next day the Council waiting on Her Grace at the Board, and several numbers attending to hear this Impostor examined, staid a long time; Her Grace and the Council wondering at this delay, sent unto his Brother *Richard Bland*, and the other two, who were Bail for this Impostors Appearance. They coming before Her Grace and the rest of the Council, made this Answer, We have performed as much as we undertook to perform; but had we received any further Directions from Your Grace, and this Honourable Board, for to have brought him this day, we should have obeyed Your Commands; but You spoke unto the party accused to come this day, and not to us; so that we suppose our selves to be released of what we had undertaken, having presented him before your Grace and this Honourable Board.

It being a publick Hearing, and the Auditors that were present, in expectation to have heard *Commin* speak, and not those who were bound for him, caused the Councils ire to rage more than ordinary; hereupon the Council caused searches immediately to be made over all London and Kent, especially where ever they suspected him to be, but could not find him; for he was fled that very evening: yet by this Inquiry, they found out several of Creatures whom he had deluded, and the true Relation of what Sums of Money, the poor people had gathered, and bestowed on him. Most of those who were supposed to be of this Impostors Flock, were examined before Her

Graces

Graces Privy Council, who said, that to their opinions and thoughts they had never beheld so Zealous and so Heavenly a man as he seemed to be.

Septem. 14th. By a Vessel arriving at *Portsmouth*, called the *Swan of London*, John Baker, being the Master of the same, among other Discourses declared how he had seen *Faithfull Commyn* in the *Low Countries*, and some of the Council hearing of this Mans arrivall, acquainted the *Queen* with what they had heard, concerning this Villain: Upon which information Her Majestie, and the Rest of the Privie Council sent a Pursevant for the said John Baker, who coming to the man on the 20th of this said instant, and found him abed, the man was startled, and demanded of the Pursevant what was his Crime, the Pursevant made answer, he knew not what it was he was sent for, only it was Her Graces Will and the Councils to speak with him: Yet the poor man, whether through fear, or to Courage his spirits, call'd for a Cup of Sack, and Drank Her Graces Health to the Pursevant, saying (her's a health to my Royall Queen;) if She intends to Try my Fidelity, and Employ me in her Navy, I will venture all the Blood in my Body to Defend Her Graces Right. But when he appeared before the Board, they Demanded of him, if he had seen *Faithfull Commyn*, he made answer, he had seen him in the *Low Countries*, and enquiring further he related this Relation as followes.

Coming with other Vessels to Land some Goods at *Amsterdam*, Martin Van Davall a Merchant of that City hearing me Talk of this man, told me, that this *Commyn*, had been lately at *Rome*, and that Pope Pius the 5th. caused him to be Clapt up in Prison, and that *Commyn* had wrote to his Holiness the next day, saying, that he had something to say unto his Holiness, upon which the Pope sent for him, and as soon as he had seen Mr. *Commyn*, he spoke to him, saying, Sir I have heard how you have set me, and my Predecessors forth amongst your Hereticks of England, by Railing against my Person and my Church. And that *Commyn* made answer, I confess my Lips have open'd that which my Heart thought otherwaies. But your Holiness little thinks that I have done you a kindness, notwithstanding I have spoken so much against your Holiness. And that the Pope should Returne *Commyn* this answer (How in the Name of *Jesus Mary*, & of all His Saints hast thou done so?) and that *Commyn* should make this answer saying, I Preached against set Forms of Prayer, and I called the *English Prayers* (*English Mass*), and have perswaded severall to pray Spiritually and Extempore, which hath taken so much with the People that the Church of England is become as Odious to that Sort whom I instructed, as *Mass* is to them, which will never be but a Stumbling Block to that Church, while it is a Church, and that upon this Relation the Pope Cherished him, and gave him 2000 Duckets for his Labour.

Her Grace, and the whole Council, thanking Mr. John Baker for his Relation, bad him withdraw, and upon this Information wrote over to Her Correspondents beyond Seas, if possible he might be sent over hither in to England, but it being talked all over England, how that the Pope had Rewarded this Impostor, some knowing where he was, gave him notice, and thereby he Escaped out of those Territories and fled into the *Romish* holdings.

The Council Consulting with Her Grace, to prevent not only Popery, but all other Sectaries, caused an Act to be Framed and to be Enacted, that the severall Ministers of severall Parishes, should take the Names of all the Families li-

ing within the severall Parishes, both Male and Female from Ten years of Age, and that every Parish should have a certaine Clerk for that purpose, and that every house within the said Parish should have a particular seat for them and their Families; Each Man or Woman missing prayers every Sunday, to forfeit a shilling, Excepting those who had Certificates under a Protestant Physicians hand to be sick, The Clerk to have one third part, the poor the second third part, and the third towards the Church for Broomes, Sweet strowing Herbs, Flowers, and Buses, &c.

This Act at first, was Irksome to many; but at long running, rather then a Master would pay for his Family, or for his Servants they began to come to Prayers and Sermons. Then the Clerks spying but little to be got, when the People began to come to Church, neglected their Office, and severall agreeing with the Ministers of Each Parish, to give them a yearly Stipend, the Act ceased, and Popery and Sedaries increased

This being a Copy of the Lord Cecills Memorandums of Faithfull Commin, with many other Memorandums in the same Book worth the Printing; which Book was amongst Arch-Bishop Ushers Manuscripts before his Death.

FINIS.



and
ouse
each
hose
k to
the

en a
ray-
ople
the
pery

nin,
hich